

July 16, 2014

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-0504

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of June 2, 2014, regarding the NRC's evaluation of the safety of a potential geologic repository for high-level waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

As you note in your letter, the NRC staff is making significant progress toward completion of the remaining four volumes of the safety evaluation report (SER). Staff is currently scheduled to complete the SER by January 2015. Completion of the SER, with appropriated but unexpended funds from the Nuclear Waste Fund (NWF) that are available to NRC, remains the agency's highest priority for this project. In addition, the Commission has directed the staff to plan to develop and issue an environmental impact statement (EIS) supplement. Work on the EIS supplement would begin after a reassessment of remaining NWF funds in the fall of 2014, when work on the SER is substantively complete and when appropriate personnel are available to support the EIS supplement effort.

The NRC will continue to send you, as Chair of the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, the Monthly Status Report on Activities Related to the Yucca Mountain Licensing Action to provide information on the progress of our review. I will also be happy to keep you informed on the progress and outcome of the staff evaluation, as needed. If you need any additional information, please contact me or Amy Powell, Acting Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Allison M. Macfarlane